

Melancon Advocated for the 2005 Energy Bill Funding These Investments

January 6, 2010

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that St. James Parish has been awarded two federal grants totaling \$122,800 from the federal Minerals Management Service. These investments, funded through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), will be used to construct two waterline booster pump stations along the East and West Banks of the Mississippi River.

The additional capacity provided by the pumps will allow St. James Parish Water Utilities to meet peak water flow demands that have been rising recently due to increased oil and gas industry activity in the parish. *Melancon Advocated for the 2005 Energy Bill Funding These Investments*

January 6, 2010

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that St. James Parish has been awarded two federal grants totaling \$122,800 from the federal Minerals Management Service. These investments, funded through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), will be used to construct two waterline booster pump stations along the East and West Banks of the Mississippi River.

The additional capacity provided by the pumps will allow St. James Parish Water Utilities to meet peak water flow demands that have been rising recently due to increased oil and gas industry activity in the parish.

"St. James Parish and other Louisiana communities have supported the energy needs of our nation for decades," said Rep. Melancon. "The infrastructure improvements made possible by this federal funding will help St. James continue to play a critical role in supplying domestic energy to the rest of the country, while also attracting new business to the parish."

St. James Parish President Dale Hymel said, **"We are thankful for the grants from the federal government. These grants will help provide increased water pressure in the northern areas of the parish, and we will be able to provide better services for our businesses and residents."**

Rep. Melancon supported the creation of the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. CIAP authorizes \$250 million in grants annually, from 2007-2010, to be distributed to six outer continental shelf oil and gas producing states: Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, California, Mississippi and Texas. These grants are for coastal restoration and mitigation of the impacts of OCS oil and gas activities.

Louisiana has been allocated a total of \$368,123,048 in federal funds from the CIAP. To date, the state and coastal parishes have received \$98.45 million of that funding for coastal restoration and infrastructure projects.

Rep. Melancon continued, **"The Coastal Impact Assistance Program has been a valuable tool for Louisiana in the fight to restore our coastal wetlands. As an advocate for Louisiana in Washington, I will continue working to cut the bureaucratic red tape in this program so funding reaches the people and projects that need it more quickly."**

#